

Jordanella
(tub)

to the valley. It was small and threshed very slowly, using horses as its source of power. When the grain had been through the machine it still had to be run through a fanning mill to separate the kernels from the chaff. This mill was hand operated and also very slow. As a result, some of the grain did not get harvested before winter set in.

The prospects of winter seemed less bleak that year for there were many more people in the valley and more adequate preparations had been made. To help the time pass more quickly, a dramatics group was organized. Some very good plays were produced with John Crook, James Duke, C. N. Carroll, John Galligher and John Jordan taking the leads.

The saints also could look forward to regular Church services on Sundays in their new meeting house. A choir was organized to help with the music and John Crook, talented in many lines, served as the choir leader.



JOHN CROOK
Original Settler and Early Historian

Schools were also conducted during the winter months for the education of the people. John M. Young was the first school teacher and the classes were held in the meeting house with students sitting on rough benches or stools using make-shift desks fastened to the walls.

There were other interests in the new valley, too, for the records show that on Christmas Day, 1860, Charles C. Thomas claimed as his bride, Emmaline Sessions. They were married by Thomas Rasband in the first ceremony to be performed in the valley. That evening another couple, Harvey Meeks and a Miss Dougal were married at Center Creek by Silas Smith.

According to John Crook's journal, those who spent the winter of 1860-61 in the fort with their families were:

North Side: John Carlile, John Crook, Thomas Rasband, James Carlile, Fred Giles, Robert S. Duke, Willis Boren, James Davis, Robert Broadhead, Hyrum Oaks, Alfred Johnson, Sam Rooker, William Damaron, James Lamon and John Lee.

East Side: Alex Sessions, Richard Jones, Elisha Thomas, Bradford Sessions, Isaac Cummings, Darwin Walton, John Cummings Sr., Charles N. Carroll, George Damaron, Bailes Sprouse, Thomas Hicken, George Thompson and Norton Jacobs.

South Side: Thomas Moulton, Patrick Carroll, William Forman, John Muir, John M. Murdock, Thomas Todd, Cal Henry and Robert Carlile.

West Side: Jane Clotworthy, Zemira Palmer, James Duke, James Laird, Cub Johnson, John Davis, Robert Parker, Terry Burns, William McDonald, John Hamilton, George W. Clyde, John Witt, Joseph S. McDonald, John Jordan, a Mr. Russell and John McDonald.

By the time Spring was welcomed in 1861 the community of Heber was recognized by Church leaders in Salt Lake City as being large enough to organize into a ward. Thus, early in 1861 Joseph S. Murdock was ordained as bishop of the new ward by President Brigham Young and sent from American Fork to Heber to take charge of Church affairs. He chose as his counselors John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband. John Hamilton served as ward clerk.

Bishop Murdock also served as presiding bishop of the valley and directed the Church efforts of presiding elders who were called in the small communities that had begun to spring up in the valley. These community developments are discussed separately in later chapters.

The year 1861 proved to be a year of many significant accomplishments. With Church activity on an organized basis and the individual homes as well fixed as possible for that time, the settlers began to look to community improvements.

Provisions were made for old and new settlers to plant vegetable gardens outside the fort. Ephraim Smith and William P. Reynolds built a chopper run by horse power to chop wheat for those who could not go to the mills in Provo. While it was still somewhat crude, the chopper was a great help to those who had been grinding their flour in small hand mills.

Another bridge was built over the Provo River, this one located six miles north of Heber on the road to Salt Lake City. A good wagon road was also made through Provo Canyon, with toll being charged for use of the road.

John M. Murdock organized a cooperative sheep herd in 1860 and cared for the sheep during the summer months himself. He was able to take the sheep far enough south to winter out so that they did not need special supplies of hay. This method of caring for the sheep enabled

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nearly everyone to have a few sheep to furnish wool for spinning and weaving into a cloth called "jean."

Production of the cloth was laborious. After the wool was sheared from the sheep it had to be washed and scoured, carded by hand into spools and then spun into yarn. If coloring was desired, tag alder, rabbit brush and indigo were used.

William Aird was the first community weaver, and received the yarn from the people for weaving. The wool had to be mixed with cotton yarn for warp to make the "jean" cloth. Practically everyone wore clothing made from this type of cloth.

Additional Church organization occurred in 1861 when John Young, a brother of President Brigham Young, came to Heber and organized the first High Priests Quorum. Elisha Averett was sustained as president of the quorum. He moved away in less than a year and John M. Murdock was appointed. Counselors were Thomas Todd and John Jordan with William Aird as clerk.

Up until this time in the valley's history there were two counties that claimed the Wasatch land. Utah County included the southern area of the valley and the northern part was in Salt Lake County. The dividing line ran through the valley about one mile south of Heber. The present cities of Heber and Midway were in Salt Lake County.

Early in 1862 the U. S. government created the Territory of Nevada out of the western part of the Territory of Utah. This made it necessary to revise some of the county lines in the remaining Utah area and the Territorial Legislature created 17 new counties in the state, one of them being Wasatch County.

The new county was bounded on the west by the summit of the Wasatch Range, on the north by Summit County, on the east by the territorial line between Utah and Colorado and on the south by Sanpete County.

A later legislative act described the county boundaries as follows:

"All of that portion of the territory bounded on the south by Utah and Sanpete Counties, west by Utah and Great Salt Lake Counties, north by the summit of the range of mountains south of the headwaters of the East canyon and Silver Creek, following said summit to the point where the road leading to Great Salt Lake City and Rhode's Valley crosses, thence south to the Provo River at the high bluff below Goddards' ranch; thence along the channel of said river to its head waters, thence easterly to the summit of the range of mountains north of Uintah Valley, thence along the last named summit and south to Brown's hole to the 32nd meridian west from Washington City and east by said meridian, is hereby made and named Wasatch County with county seat at Heber City."

It is believed that the Goddard's ranch mentioned is the present O'Driscoll ranch situated on the north side of the Provo River at the lower end of Kamas Valley.